From: Morning Consult
To: lmartin@bakersfieldpd.us
Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Microsoft"s Top Executives Pledge to Focus on Harassment After Female Employees" Complaints
Date: Friday, April 5, 2019 5:49:56 AM

By Sam Sabin

Top Stories

- Microsoft Corp.'s CEO Chief Executive Officer Satya Nadella, human resources chief Kathleen Hogan and senior engineering leader Rajesh Jha promised to focus more on diversity and harassment issues at the company's monthly employee meetings from now on, according to a person familiar with the matter, after female employees took to a 90-page internal email thread to share their experiences with sexual misconduct and discrimination inside the company. Women said they were subject to sexist comments during work trips and were told to sit on a coworker's lap in front of a human resources leader, and they also complained of lower pay and lack of promotions for female employees. (Bloomberg)

- Google is disbanding its artificial intelligence ethics board after a little more than one week following protests from company employees over the appointment of two members: Heritage Foundation President Kay Cole James, for her comments on trans rights and the think tank's climate change skepticism, and a CEO of a drone maker, Dyan Gibbens, whose inclusion raised questions about Google's work with the military. (Vox)

- A federal judge is giving Tesla Inc. Chief Executive Elon Musk and the Securities and Exchange Commission two weeks to resolve disputes over the tech entrepreneur's Twitter usage. The SEC had asked the court to hold Musk in contempt of court for violating a securities fraud settlement, which bars him from tweeting about Tesla's business without a company review. (CNBC)

Chart Review

Lina Khan: 'This isn't just about antitrust. It's about values'
Financial Times

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

04/05/2019

International Privacy + Security Forum

04/06/2019

NAB Show

04/07/2019

NAB Show

Forbes' 2019 CIO Summit

04/08/2019

Forbes' 2019 CIO Summit

NAB Show

04/09/2019

Google Cloud Next

NAB Show

Common Sense Media's Truth About Tech conference, featuring Sen. Ed Markey, FTC Commissioner Rohit Chopra and FCC Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel 9:00 am

04/10/2019

Google Cloud Next

NAB Show

04/11/2019

Google Cloud Next

NAB Show

View full calendar

The Brands That Define American Culture and Commerce

Morning Consult analyzed over 400,000 survey interviews to determine this year's rankings. See who made the list.

General

'Epic' China Trade Deal Near Completion, Trump Says, but Haggling Continues

Ana Swanson, The New York Times

President Trump stopped short of announcing a final trade deal with China on Thursday, saying in an Oval Office meeting with the Chinese delegation that it may take another four weeks or more to secure an "epic" trade agreement.

U.S. mandates sale of another Chinese-owned tech company
Orion Rummler, Axios

PatientsLikeMe, a health-tech startup that connects patients with similar medical conditions, is being forced to find a buyer after the Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S. (CFIUS) ordered Chinese firm iCarbonX, its majority owner, to divest its stake in the company.

Dem senators introduce bill to combat sexual harassment in STEM
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

A group of Democratic senators, including 2020 contender Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), on Thursday introduced a bill aimed at combating sexism within the science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) fields.

FEMA wants to award disaster grants faster under this $80M IT contract
Dave Nyczepir, FedScoop

Karsun Solutions LLC on Thursday received a five-year, $80-million contract to develop technology to expedite the Federal Emergency Management Agency's grants process before and after disasters.

A Luxury Home Firewall Could Save This Neighborhood From Amazon's HQ2
Prashant Gopal, Bloomberg

Amazon's development partner in the Crystal City section of Arlington, Va., has a solution to preserve affordable housing: surround the new headquarters with a firewall of luxury apartment towers. That way, the theory goes, the affluent won't push into less-expensive enclaves nearby.

Driving on empty: Florida could expand self-driving car law
Brendan Farrington, The Associated Press

Self-driving vehicles could be operated in Florida without a human backup

under a bill approved by a House committee Thursday, which could pave the way for companies like Uber and Lyft to deploy fleets of driverless vehicles.

Old, Online, And Fed On Lies: How An Aging Population Will Reshape The Internet
Craig Silverman, BuzzFeed News

Older people play an outsized role in civic life. They also are more likely to be online targets for misinformation and hyperpartisan rhetoric.

Stocks Edge Up With Bond Yields on Trade Outlook: Markets Wrap
Todd White, Bloomberg

Global stocks edged higher while Treasuries slipped following remarks from both China and the U.S. that progress was being made in trade talks. The dollar held steady hours before Friday's report on the American job market.

Intellectual Property and Antitrust

Changes to EU antitrust enforcement on Big Tech urged
Rochelle Toplensky and Madhumita Murgia, Financial Times

Google, Amazon, Facebook and other major technology companies could face fresh antitrust challenges after an EU report recommended sweeping changes to how the bloc enforces its competition rules. The report, published on Thursday, could also lead to more companies being deemed "dominant" and therefore subject to stricter rules about the services they provide and the prices they charge.

T-Mobile's Legere: Sprint Deal Will Create Jobs, Period
John Eggerton, Broadcasting & Cable

T-Mobile CEO John Legere is pushing back on claims that its proposed merger with Sprint will result in job cuts. In a blog post Thursday (April 4), Legere tried to put to rest what he called "REALLY creative claims."

Telecom, Wireless and TV

Trump administration still backs free-market 5G approach

Kim Hart, Axios

The Trump administration reiterated its commitment to a market-based strategy for building out U.S. 5G networks.

Pai to Hill: FCC is Not Delaying Geolocation Data Investigation
John Eggerton, Broadcasting & Cable

FCC chair Ajit Pai assured Congress this week that the FCC continues to investigate the selling by wireless carriers of geolocation data to third parties, and said any suggestion otherwise is not true.

Net neutrality measure moves to Polis' desk
Charles Ashby, The Daily Sentinel

The Colorado House sent to the governor's desk Thursday a bill that attempts to ensure that telecommunications companies operating in the state abide by net neutrality standards tossed by the federal government in 2017.

Mobile Technology and Social Media

Americans Agree: Social Media Is Divisive (But We Keep Using It)
John D. McKinnon and Danny Dougherty, The Wall Street Journal

Americans have a paradoxical attachment to the social-media platforms that have transformed communication, a new Wall Street Journal/NBC News poll finds, saying they regard services such as Facebook to be divisive and a threat to privacy but continue to use them daily.

Twitter stops blocking French government's ad campaign
Kelvin Chan and Angela Charlton, The Associated Press

Twitter said Thursday it has stopped blocking French government ads calling on people to vote after it came under fire from authorities for being overzealous in applying a law aimed at banning fake news. The social media company modified its policy after executives met with French government officials, saying it has now decided to authorize such ads "after many exchanges."

Cybersecurity and Privacy

By spying on Huawei, U.S. found evidence against the Chinese firm
Brendan Pierson and Karen Freifeld, Reuters

U.S. authorities gathered information about Huawei Technologies Co Ltd through secret surveillance that they plan to use in a case accusing the Chinese telecom equipment maker of sanctions-busting and bank fraud, prosecutors said on Thursday.

FTC has received 26,000 complaints about Facebook privacy violations since 2012
Emily Birnbaum, The Hill

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has received 26,000 complaints about potential Facebook privacy violations over the past eight years, according to records made public by the Electronic Privacy Information Center (EPIC). The FTC has seen a significant increase in the number of consumer complaints about Facebook since 2012, according to an email the EPIC received through a Freedom of Information Act request.

Amazon has to let shareholders vote on government Rekognition ban, SEC says
Colin Lecher, The Verge

Amazon will have to let shareholders vote on proposals to curb sales of its controversial facial recognition product, the Securities and Exchange Commission said in a letter to the company this week.

How the U.S. could get a national privacy law
Joe Uchill, Axios

Democratic senators involved in a key bipartisan working group left a Wednesday evening meeting with little to say about whether they were making progress on a national privacy bill Republicans hope will preempt state measures.

Senate Bill Promises Retaliation If Russia Again Meddles in Elections
Frank Konkel, Nextgov

A bipartisan bill introduced in the Senate Wednesday aims to deter Russia and other nations from meddling in future U.S. elections. The Defending Elections

from Threats by Establishing Readiness Act, or DETER-introduced by Sens. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., and Chris Van Hollen, D-Md.-threatens a range retaliatory actions the government can take if a foreign government meddles in another election as well as Russia-specific sanctions that can be doled out.

Air Force enlists ethical hackers to target maintenance system from the inside
Billy Mitchell, FedScoop

What happens if an airman or other Air Force personnel "went rogue" and wreaked havoc on one of the service's most important IT systems for maintaining its weapons technology?

Opinions, Editorials and Perspectives

America Rises in Global 5G Race: Here's How To Make Sure We Win
Meredith Attwell Baker, Morning Consult

The United States has leaped from third a year ago to tied for No. 1 with China in the global 5G race, according to new research. 5G is the next generation of wireless, which will unlock innovation, create jobs and foster the industries of the future.

Real net neutrality is bipartisan - Save the Internet Act is not
Rep. Greg Walden, Fox News

Net neutrality is a bipartisan issue in Congress. Despite the overheated rhetoric and the political talking points, Democrats actually agree with me and my Republican colleagues on the key net neutrality parameters that protect a free and open Internet for consumers.

Facebook is finally learning to love privacy laws
Henry Farrell, Financial Times

Nine years ago, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg claimed that people do not care about privacy. Things have changed. Last week, he called for the US and other countries to adopt comprehensive privacy protection in line with the EU's General Data Protection Regulation, shortly after he had promised to rebuild Facebook around an encrypted privacy-focused platform.

Research Reports

Discrimination through optimization: How Facebook's ad delivery can lead to skewed outcomes

Muhammad Ali et al., Northeastern University, University of Southern California and Upturn

The enormous financial success of online advertising platforms is partially due to the precise targeting features they offer. Although researchers and journalists have found many ways that advertisers can target-or exclude-particular groups of users seeing their ads, comparatively little attention has been paid to the implications of the platform's ad delivery process, comprised of the platform's choices about who should see an ad.

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